

CLAIMS

1. A method for detecting whether a received information content is identical to a plurality of stored information contents, comprising the steps of:

5 determining a plurality of parameters, each representing one of the plurality of stored information contents;

storing the plurality of parameters;

determining a parameter representing the received information content;

10 comparing the parameter representing the received information content with the plurality of stored parameters; and

indicating that the received information content is identical to a stored information content if the corresponding parameters are equal.

15 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of information contents include electronic mails.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the information content is received through a global communication network.

20 4. The method of Claim 3, wherein the global communications network includes the Internet.

25 5. The method of claim 1, wherein each parameter is determined based on an order and a value of each character in the corresponding information content.

6. A method for comparing a plurality of information contents, comprising the steps of:

determining a plurality of parameters, each representing one of the plurality of information contents; and

5 comparing the plurality of parameters, such that equality between a pair of the plurality of parameters indicates that corresponding pair of the plurality of information contents is identical.

10 7. The method of Claim 6, wherein the plurality of information contents include electronic mails.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein each one of the plurality of parameters is determined based on an order of each character in the corresponding information content.

15 9. The method of claim 8, wherein each one of the plurality of parameters is determined based on a value of each character in the corresponding information content.

20 10. The method of Claim 9, wherein the value includes ASCII value.

11. A computer readable medium embodying a method for comparing a plurality of information contents, the method comprising the steps of:

25 determining a plurality of parameters, each representing one of the plurality of information contents; and

comparing the plurality of parameters, such that equality between a pair of the plurality of parameters indicates that corresponding pair of the plurality of information contents is identical.

- 5 12. A system for comparing a plurality of information contents, comprising:
at least one user terminal;

means for determining a plurality of parameters, each representing one of the plurality of information contents;

- 10 means for comparing the plurality of parameters, such that an equality between a pair of the plurality of parameters indicates that a corresponding pair of the plurality of information contents are identical; and

at least one database containing the plurality of information contents and the plurality of parameters.

- 15 13. The computer system of Claim 12, further implemented on a global telecommunications network.

14. The computer system of Claim 13, wherein the global telecommunications network includes the Internet.

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